



Course Syllabus

Course Code LAW-153	Course Title Judicial Psychology	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites N/A	Department Law	Semester Spring
Type of Course Elective	Field Psychology	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Dr. Stavroula Soukara	Year of Study 2 / 3 / 4
Mode of Delivery Conventional	Work Placement N/A	Corequisites N/A

Course Objectives:

The course explores the interface of psychology and law, focusing on the nature of judicial / forensic psychology. The main objective of the course is to introduce students to some of the diverse areas judicial psychology is involved with, and to provide them with a solid foundation in the theory and practice of judicial psychology. Amongst other things, this course explores the application of psychological theory and research to areas such as investigative psychology, jury selection and decisions, police interrogations and confessions, miscarriages of justice, use of verbal analysis methods in detecting deceit, eyewitness testimony, child witnesses, and the psychology of stalking.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe the contribution of psychology to all levels of the criminal justice system (i.e., from interviewing witnesses and suspects of crime, to jury and judges' decision making, to the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders, to lie detection etc.)
2. Evaluate current issues, problems, and trends in the field of judicial / forensic psychology

3. Demonstrate an awareness of basic theory, research findings and methods of investigation used in judicial psychology
4. Assess the use and validity of psychological / criminal profiling and lie detection techniques
5. Discuss what can go wrong in the legal system (unreliable eyewitnesses, false confessions, faulty jury reasoning) resulting in people being wrongly convicted for crimes they never committed
6. Appraise the complex nature of criminal interrogations, confessions, and entrapment
7. Identify the different types of competencies, what a risk assessment entails and how psychologists can assess / predict offender dangerousness

Course Content:

1. Definitions and Overview of Judicial / Legal / Forensic Psychology
2. Investigative Interviewing of Suspects
3. Investigative Interviewing of Witnesses
4. Children in Court / Childrens' Testimony
5. Miscarriages of Justice
6. Detection of Lies and Deceit
7. Jury Psychology and Decision-Making
8. Criminal and Geographical Profiling
9. Competence to Stand Trial and Insanity Defence
10. Expert Witnesses in Court
11. Stalking

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussions, Case studies, In class exercises

Assessment Methods:

Exams, Assignment, Presentation, Class participation

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application	Bartol, C. B. & Bartol, A. M.	Sage	2022	9781071815342
Cambridge Handbook of Forensic Psychology (2 nd Ed)	Brown, J. M. & Horvath, M. A. H.	Cambridge University Press	2021	9781108848916

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System (9 th Ed)	Greene, E. & Heilbrun, K.	Cengage Learning	2018	9781337570879
Psychology and Law: A Critical Introduction	Kapardis, A.	Cambridge University Press	2014	9781107650848